

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06559 211836Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 PRS-01 NSC-05 H-01  
DHA-02 INR-07 CIAE-00 SP-02 /046 W  
-----212034Z 049279 /44-S

P R 211741Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4133  
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: PRESS STORY ON CRAXI VISIT TO UNITED STATES

REF: STATE 83706

1. MANY ITALIAN PAPERS CARRIED IN THEIR APRIL 21 EDITIONS A REPORT THAT SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY BETTINO CRAXI HAS BEEN INVITED TO THE UNITED STATES AND AT LEAST ONE SAYS HE WILL PROBABLY MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. THE REPORT IS ASCRIBED TO SOURCES IN THE PSI SECRETARIAT BUT, SIGNIFICANTLY, THERE IS NO REPORT OF THE INVITATION IN AVANTI, THE PSI DAILY. SOME REPORTS REFER TO THE INVITATION AS A RENEWAL OF AN EARLIER INVITATION EXTENDED OVER A YEAR AGO TO THEN-PSI PARTY SECRETARY DE MARTINO. ALL ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT THE INVITATION WAS DELIVERED AT A MEETING BETWEEN CRAXI AND AMBASSADOR GARDNER. (NOTE: AMBASSADOR GARDNER HAS NOT YET MET CRAXI).

2. CRAXI'S OFFICE CALLED TO DISCUSS MATTER AND IN PARTICULAR, TO COORDINATE ON RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES. PSI GUIDANCE TO ITS SPOKESMAN IS AS FOLLOWS: THE  
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PRESS SPOKESMAN OF THE PSI, WITH REGARD TO THE STORIES THAT APPEARED IN THE PRESS, IS IN A POSITION TO STATE THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE PSI HAS NOT HAD EITHER THE OCCASION OR THE PLEASURE OF MEETING THE NEW US AMBASSADOR IN ITALY. WITH REGARD TO VISITS TO THE USA, THERE IS PLANNED FOR THIS SUMMER A TRIP BY A DELEGATION OF SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE INVITATION OF THE AMERICAN

GOVERNMENT." (THE LATTER REFERES TO AN IVP GROUP OF THREE OR FOUR PSI DEPUTIES WHICH IS INCLUDED IN OUR 1977 IVP PROGRAM).

3. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF QUERIES, WHICH HAVE BEEN ANSWERED ON BASIS OF FOLLOWING GUIDELINES (ON AN IF ASKED BASIS ONLY) (A) WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT A VISIT BY CRAXI TO THE UNITED STATES, BUT A DEFINITE DATE AND PROGRAM HAVE NOT BEEN WORKED OUT WE HOPE THAT SUCH A VISIT CAN TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR. (B) "THE AMBASSADOR HAS NOT YET MET CRAXI BUT LOOKS FORWARD TO DOING SO IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE".

4. FYI: AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED A CALL ON CRAXI FOR MAY 2. A POSSIBLE CRAXI VISIT TO US WILL DOUBTLESS BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT THIS MEETING.

5. COMMENT. THE NEWS STORY BROKE BEFORE THE EMBASSY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE REGARDING CRAXI'S PROPOSED TRIP CONTAINED REFTEL, AND IT WAS NOT THEREFORE A REACTION TO THAT MESSAGE. A PSI SOURCE CLOSE TO CRAXI TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS DISTURBED CRAXI GREATLY. CRAXI REPORTEDLY SUSPECTS THAT THE PRESS STORY WAS LEAKED BY SOMEONE EITHER IN THE USG OR ON THE "RIGHT" (BY THIS, CRAXI PROBABLY MEANS DC) WHO WANTS TO "SABOTAGE" RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE PSI. IN OUR VIEW, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THE REPORTS ORIGINATED FROM ENEMIES OF CRAXI WITHIN THE PSI. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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